Despite my general dislike of 'meeting proceedings', I enjoyed this one, for the reasons set out at the end of my first paragraph. The book contains much useful new data, although it will swiftly become out of date as the literature catches up. I recommend scientists who can easily get hold of a copy to do so, but not if they have to pay the $110 themselves.

Barry Halliwell

Horizons of Biochemical Engineering

Edited by Shuichi Aiba

Oxford University Press; Oxford, 1988

x + 374 pages. £50.00

When a scientist or engineer has devoted the whole of his working life to his subject, it is pleasing to see his efforts acknowledged publicly. This work is a tangible demonstration by his friends of their recognition of Professor Aiba's major contribution to biochemical engineering. For those who have been involved in teaching and research of this subject, the book has a special value. In the first section, entitled Reflections, three distinguished biotechnologists, John Bu'Lock, Armin Fiechter and Nancy Millis give their views on biochemical engineering and related areas of biotechnology.

The bulk of the book is devoted to twenty-three technical chapters. These are grouped into five sections on physiology and kinetics; DNA technology; metabolites; measurement, control and design and finally environment. By far the largest is the fourth of those sections indicating the great need for more and improved measurements to allow better process control and more rigorous design. It is pleasing to see chapters not only on fashionable topics such as recombinant proteins, but also on insecticide production and degradation of xenobiotics and cellulosic wastes.

The publisher's note on the cover refers to the book as an overview of the field of biochemical engineering. This is unfortunate because, although each chapter in general gives a good appraisal of a particular area, the book as a whole does not give a balanced view of biochemical engineering as little of it is devoted to downstream processing. This is particularly true of the section on DNA technology, in which much emphasis is placed on fermentation, whereas most of the biochemical engineering problems arise during protein isolation and recovery.

Nevertheless, the high quality of the papers and the book production make it well worth purchasing by any biotechnologist interested in biochemical engineering research. It is not a textbook, but it is to be hoped that academic institutions will include it in their libraries as it contains much of value to students of biochemical engineering and biotechnology.

M.D. Lilly

Monoclonal Antibodies in Diagnostic Immunohistochemistry

By Mark R. Wick and Gene P. Siegal

Marcel Decker; New York, 1988

654 pages. $125.00 (USA and Canada); $150.00 (elsewhere)

Since the beginning of this decade immunohistochemistry has had a major influence on the practice of diagnostic histopathology. Currently most histology laboratories perform some immuno-